

Ophthalmologists More Plentiful

Toledo is most fortunate in being served by the ophthalmological profession. Until recently, persons wishing to see an ophthalmologist had to wait nearly six months for an appointment. This picture is not true today as several ophthalmologists have begun their practicing in Toledo over the last few years.

The Society endeavors to have the ophthalmologists visit its facility that they might learn how the visually handicapped are served by the Society.

On May 15, 1973 ten ophthalmologists participated in a tour and were surprised at the extent of the Society's program.

Dr. David Eriksen arranged the program which the Society hopes will become a regular part of the ophthalmological program.

Placement News



Doris Washington puts the finishing touches to one of the many wigs she has styled.

Mrs. Doris Washington, a former trainee at the Toledo Society for the Blind, has recently opened her own beauty salon "Through the Looking Glass" which is located at 2013 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio.

Mrs. Washington does the very latest in hair styling and grooming.

* * *

Robert McKenzie, a legally blind piano tuner, wants work tuning pianos. He recently completed two years' training in piano technology (tuning and repairing) at the Special Technical Facility in Talladega, Alabama. Mr. McKenzie prefers to work by himself and not through a music store.

* * *

Please contact Joe Mielczarek, placement specialist at the Toledo Society for the Blind for employment openings or any questions that need to be answered.



June, '73 found Mike Bolin in Wonderland at the Toledo Zoo when the Toledo Society for the Blind sponsored a tour of the facility.

Mrs. Caton Judges Flower Show

One of Toledo's blind population was given a chance to display her talents in an unusual manner. On September 8 Mrs. Naomi Caton served as a judge for the Toledo Rose Society at their annual flower show and contest held at the Southwyck Shopping Center.

Mrs. Caton judged the fragrance of the various roses submitted for judgement, with ribbons being awarded for those with the sweetest fragrance.

After the completion of her duties, she was treated to dinner at the shopping center. Her help was much appreciated by the Rose Society and the Toledo Society for the Blind extends its thanks to her for a job well done.

(continued from page 1)

Toledo Society for the Blind is available to employers and employees to help solve these problems. If the problem cannot be solved, it is the responsibility of the Society to tell the worker that he is no longer functional on the job. We are grateful this has never happened, but it is a service that we do offer in the event the need arises.

During the year of 1972, the Toledo Society for the Blind placed 22 workers in the Toledo Metropolitan Area. Out of this number, two have left work and only for reasons of health. From these statistics, one can see that the program does have something to offer employers—good solid employees who do a good job.

The duties of a placement worker for the blind are defined by Saul Freedman who said, "The placement worker is not so much involved in filling job orders presented by prospective employers, as he is in recruiting employers and opportunities for qualified workmen."

Mr. E. J. Mielczarek, Jr., at the Toledo Society for the Blind is available to answer any questions. Call him at 241-1183 should there be any.

Toledo employers participating in the employment of visually handicapped persons are: Champion Spark Plug, Chevrolet, City of Toledo, Dana Nursing Home, Eastgate Shell, Through the Looking Glass, Toledo Board of Education and 21st Century Health Spa.

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

Vol. 9 No. 4 October, 1973

1819 Canton Avenue

Telephone 241-1183

BLIND— What Does It Really Mean?

What does the word "blind" mean to a placement specialist whose sole responsibility is to place these people in a competitive working environment? It unfortunately connotes idleness, dependency and helplessness which are misconceptions and designate a stigma placed by our society on these people who are visually handicapped.

There are approximately 100 impairments defined by ophthalmologists, that one may inherit or acquire during his lifetime, which may prevent him from being employed in certain occupations. Therefore, the word "blind" is very confusing to people and employers, as it does not only mean being totally blind but includes all the visually handicapped people as well.

Surveys show that visually handicapped people make excellent employees and their loyalty and productivity have shown employers that they have invested wisely. They alleviate the problems of absenteeism and job hopping which cost employers billions of dollars each year. Specialized placement of visually handicapped workers is of utmost importance. As Richard E. Hardy once said, "Just as a worker must meet the requirements of the job, so the job must meet the needs of the worker."

The follow-up after placement of a visually handicapped worker is most essential. As with any other employees, problems may arise on the job that need to be ironed out. The

(continued on page 4)



Bill Donbrowsky enjoys his work as a mechanic at Eastgate Shell.

1973 Christmas Card Program

In order to supplement our necessary income, for the past several years the Toledo Society for the Blind has engaged in a holiday card program.

Because you ask for more cards every year, we feel that you like our selection.

Our holiday cards offer "Season's Greetings" and much more for they represent your contribution to the Society's many activities and "extracurricular" programs which are not provided for by United Appeal funds. These include summer camp, eye screening for young people, the community medical clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, family nights and help for blind bowlers.

The cards are easy to order. Make your selection from

one of the three enclosed samples, fill out the enclosed postpaid order form and drop it in the mail.

You will not receive a bill or invoice for these cards. In return, we ask that you make a contribution to the Society. Anything over the amount you usually pay for your holiday cards is tax deductible.

Also, the cards may be imprinted with your name, if you wish. Please allow \$3.00 per card selection for this extra service.

Just knowing that your contribution has given the Society an opportunity to continue its important activities, gives one an especially good feeling about sending these lovely cards.

Braille Rally Is Big Success

On June 3rd the Fifth Annual Braille Sports Car Rally was held with 19 cars participating.

Inasmuch as there were more blind navigators than sighted pilots, six of the competing cars had dual navigators. The Rally was open to both Braille and large print readers, and in the final tally of scores, the edge was definitely with the Braille readers.

This year's competitive event was won by a car with dual navigators, Rose Young of Toledo and Mary Kinney of Fostoria, with a score of 77 points. Both navigators are Braille readers. Navigating into the second place award was Valerie Boin of Toledo who is a large print reader.

Jim Fagerstrom from the Toledo Sports Car Club captured the first place trophy and second place honors went to Tim O'Rourke, also representing the Toledo Sports Car Club. Other trophy awards were won by Dawn Klem, Mary Ann Smith, Virginia Stanley, Beverly Marcom, Bob Jackson, Margaret Wensel and Marion Thompson.

Congratulations to all of the winners and many thanks to those who participated and helped to make this Rally a great success.

About The Talking Book

The following letter was received by the Talking Book Department of the Toledo Society for the Blind.

Dear Sirs:

I thank you most deeply for your excellent service. Fortunately, my sight has been sufficiently restored through surgery that I will no longer need your services.

If I can be of service to you in any capacity, please notify me. I am a professor of American Literature, though I don't feel that I read well enough to meet your high standards. Thank you again.

(signed) Jack Helder, Bowling Green, Ohio

The easy-to-operate Talking Book machines are loaned at no cost to those individuals who cannot read or use ordinary printed books and magazines because of physical limitations.

Examples of such limitations are impaired eyesight or other malfunction of the eyes; the inability to hold a book or to turn pages; the inability to hold printed material steadily enough to read it.

Any of these conditions must be certified by a designated authority such as: physicians, optometrists, nurses, counselors, social workers, clergymen, etc.

Upon acceptance, a Talking Book machine is sent on loan to the applicant at no cost. His name is registered with a Talking Book library and he is entitled to borrow Talking Books free-of-charge. Once the applicant is registered with the library, he is sent a catalog of book titles and is asked to submit a list of desired books.

In the beginning, two talking books, or magazines, are sent to the reader. This is to see how quickly the books are read and if the service is to be continued. If the reader wishes to continue the Talking Book service, he may have as many books as he wishes for a two-week period from the time he receives them. The library asks that the magazines be read and returned as soon as possible. When the recordings are returned to the library, other titles on the list are mailed promptly.

As might be expected, there are waiting lists for the newer and more popular books—just as in ink-print libraries.



Trophy winners from left, Rose Young and Mary Kinney, are joyous over their awards.

The Sign Post



The Society would like to call your attention to its new telephone number. Due to complications with the previous number, you may now reach the Toledo Society for the Blind at 241-1183.

The Head Start Eye Screening Program began on September 24, 1973 and our ladies still need volunteers to share in the eye screening program of the Society. Training sessions were held on September 11th and 12th; however, another session will be held for additional volunteers. Please contact Mrs. Meszaros, Mrs. Hantula or Mrs. Frazier at the Toledo Society for the Blind, at 241-1183.

Services are available to visually handicapped children by the State of Ohio Bureau of Services for the Blind. Write or call the Toledo Area Office, 206 Joseph Building, Dor-Secor Shopping Center, 1450 Secor Road, Toledo, Ohio 43607—phone 419/536-8334.

From our annual auditor's report for the year 1972, the Society's property and equipment amounted to \$656,313, less the depreciation.

The Society dispensed 150 W-2 forms which represented earnings of \$198,354.00 for blind employees in its sheltered workshop.

Vision problems in pre-schoolers occur in one out of every 20 children, and, if uncorrected, can seriously interfere with development and schooling.

To this effect, a home eye test kit which enables parents to check the vision of their pre-schoolers, is available free-of-charge from the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. For information contact: NSPB Home Eye Test, 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Don't Rub It!

If something gets in your eye and medical or first aid people are available, let them take care of it. However, if you have to remove it yourself, try the following:

1. If the object is under the upper lid, pull this lid down over the lower one and roll your eyes upward. This, combined with the tears which will automatically appear, should dislodge most particles if they are not imbedded.
2. If the object is under the lower lid, pull the lid down by pressing your finger gently against the lid just below the lash. Remove the particle with sterile cotton twirled onto the end of a matchstick or with a clean handkerchief.

Never touch the eye with anything that isn't absolutely clean. If the particle cannot be removed or appears too difficult for you to extract it, see a physician immediately. The importance of seeing a physician cannot be stressed strongly enough for the particle may have damaged the eyeball or caused an infection to start.



John Pitzen is pictured during his rehabilitation period at the Society.

It Can Be Done!

In 1953 John Pitzen was born. Unlike most babies, John made his entry into a world that he would never be able to see for he had no eyes.

Things became more difficult when John's father passed away in 1970. However, through perseverance, John's mother managed to keep him in school and, in 1972, John received his diploma from Bowsher High School.

Timidity and shyness prohibited John from speaking freely with others. He did, however, become a very accomplished saxophonist and played for many of the Society's programs as well as for the functions at the blind camp each year.

John came to the Society's Rehabilitation Center in 1970 for work adjustment and mobility training. At first, he was withdrawn and very slow, and his method of cane travel was the same way.

Then, one day, he was assigned to the workshop where he began working alongside other persons. Almost immediately John appeared much happier about his work. He confided that he really didn't like working alone. His progress was still slow, however, until he was put on the line with four other persons.

John Pitzen is now the line captain and is doing very well. His biggest fascination is the idea of working with various items that are packaged in the workshop.

Board of Trustees Resolution

The Toledo Society for the Blind Board of Trustees comprised of Walter H. Cline, Thomas R. Day, J. Martin Ecker, John Goerlich, Robert D. Kiess, Lyle O. Kirk, William A. Marti, Mrs. John G. Meszaros, Louis Paine, Frank G. Pletz, Franklin Schroeder, Mrs. William D. Thomas, Charles E. Trauger and Richard Vining, held their regular meeting on July 5, 1973. The following resolution was passed:

1. No person is excluded from service because of race.
2. There is no segregation of persons served on the basis of race.
3. There is no discrimination on the basis of race with regard to hiring, assignment, promotion or other conditions of staff employment. In addition, the agency has a written plan for positive action to achieve equal employment opportunity for all persons in the filling of its staff positions including elements such as contacts with various organizations in the community, including minority group organizations, regarding the agency's employment needs, recruitment advertisements in minority group news media where advertising in the general media is used to fill jobs, identifying the agency as an equal opportunity employer in recruitment advertisements, and the use for job referral purposes of only those employment agencies which do not discriminate on the basis of race in making referrals.
4. There is no discrimination on the basis of race in membership on the agency's governing body.

The resolution was made by Charles Trauger, seconded by Louis Paine and unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.



Interesting foliage textures are discovered at the Oak Openings picnic.